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Substantive session of 1998
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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 1998 annual session

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* E/1998/100.

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DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
AT ITS ANNUAL SESSION, 1-6 JUNE 1998

1998/8	Resource mobilization strategy for UNICEF
1998/9	UNICEF communication policy
1998/10	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development
1998/11	Implementation of management excellence in UNICEF
1998/12	Eradication of poliomyelitis
1998/13	Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

1998/8. Resource mobilization strategy for UNICEF

The Executive Board

Takes note of the "Report on the work of the UNICEF Executive Board and secretariat on a resource mobilization strategy for UNICEF" (E/ICEF/1998/11) and of the comments made during the discussion, and requests the secretariat to take the comments into account in preparing the draft resource mobilization strategy for the second regular session in September 1998.

Annual session
2 June 1998

1998/9. UNICEF communication policy

The Executive Board

1. Endorses document E/ICEF/1998/10 on the UNICEF communication strategy as a broad policy framework for UNICEF communication activities, including the continuing efforts of UNICEF to improve research and evaluation capacities and the communication functions for country, regional and headquarters levels;

2. Supports the approach outlined in the policy, which defines UNICEF communication functions as including information, advocacy, behavioural development and change, and social and resource mobilization;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to intensify UNICEF efforts to strengthen collaboration and partnerships with relevant sectors of the communication field.

Annual session
2 June 1998

1998/10. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on "Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development" (E/ICEF/1998/9) and of the comments made during the discussion of the report.

Annual session
2 June 1998

1998/11. Implementation of management excellence in UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. Notes with appreciation the report on the experience and results of the efforts under the Management Excellence Programme during the last three years (E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.5);

2. Expresses its appreciation for the changes effected in UNICEF's structure, systems, processes and culture, results achieved and tools developed during this period, and encourages the Executive Director to continue strengthening and deepening the implementation of management excellence throughout the organization and at all levels;

3. Endorses the recommendation of the Executive Director that management excellence now be considered "mainstreamed" and that subsequent reporting on performance be included under the relevant agenda items, with special attention to identifying aspects of accountability, particularly elements of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, in the delivery of agreed programme objectives.

Annual session
5 June 1998

1998/12. Eradication of poliomyelitis

The Executive Board

1. Notes with appreciation the report on UNICEF "1998-2000 Programme Priorities" which gives priority to health issues, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, hygiene and sanitation, salt iodization, vitamin A supplementation, measles, polio and immunization;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the progress which has been made towards the World Summit for Children goal of polio eradication by Governments, UNICEF and their international partners. Polio eradication is clearly an achievable goal, and UNICEF has a comparative advantage. However, polio is still endemic in many parts of the world;

3. Expresses its concern at the gaps in funding and programming which create barriers to polio's successful eradication by the year 2000. Achievement of this goal will make resources, previously devoted to polio, available for present challenges and for those in the twenty-first century, such as malaria;

4. Endorses UNICEF polio eradication efforts working in a coordinated fashion with the World Health Organization, Governments, non-governmental organizations (e.g. Rotary International) and civil society. Polio eradication should be accomplished in such a way as to build capacity in developing health systems. We reaffirm our goal of polio eradication by the year 2000.

Annual session
5 June 1998

1998/13. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

The Executive Board

1. Notes with satisfaction the overall progress being made in the implementation of the Declaration of the World Summit for Children and its contribution to the realization of children's rights;

2. Recognizes that efficient measures need to be taken to reach the goals for the year 2000 established by the Summit;

3. Supports the priority actions identified by the secretariat to accelerate progress towards achieving the Summit goals by the year 2000 as well as the process developed to measure progress;

4. Requests the Executive Director to support the Secretary-General in the preparation of his report to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly on the preparation of the Assembly's special session in 2001 to review achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Executive Board at its annual session in 1999;

6. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council take appropriate actions to highlight the need to achieve the goals of the World Summit for Children.

Annual session
5 June 1998

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Substantive session of 1998
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Item 7 (f) of the provisional agenda*

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000

Afghanistan**, Bangladesh, Barbados**, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi**, Cape Verde, Costa Rica**, Côte d'Ivoire**, Gabon, Guinea**, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan**, Madagascar**, Mali**, Morocco**, Niger**, Panama**, Papua New Guinea**, Poland, Qatar**, Swaziland**, Saint Lucia, Turkmenistan** and Togo: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly, in this year of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] which sustains the spirit, concept and practice of non-violence, the adoption at its fifty-third session of the following resolution:

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* E/1998/100.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (111).

"International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

"The General Assembly,

"Taking note with appreciation of the 'Appeal for the children of the world' of Nobel Peace Prize laureates, issued in May 1997, which draws attention of all the States Members of the United Nations to the enormous harm and suffering caused to, and by, children through different forms of violence at every level of our societies throughout the world, and proposes the principles and practice of non-violence as a way of promoting respect for the life and dignity of each human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind, and especially for the world's children,

"Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly at its fifty-second session proclaim the year 2000 as International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as Assembly resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

"Recognizing that the appeal by the Nobel Peace Prize laureates to construct a culture of non-violence and peace and simultaneously to teach the practice of non-violence to children in different contexts and continents promotes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and underscores a priority concern of the world community which requires a persistent and sustainable effort throughout the world at the international, regional, national and local levels to reduce the all-too-evident suffering of children,

"Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace that emanates from childhood will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation for socio-economic and cultural development, enable a more deeply mindful behaviour among children and help them to be aware, not only of their rights but also of their responsibilities, by learning how to live together in harmony, within their families and schools,

"Underlining that the proposed decade will contribute to advancing the implementation of the other objectives, activities and programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations aimed at promoting human rights, education, non-discrimination, volunteers' commitments, protection of the environment and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

"Convinced that an international decade for a culture of non-violence and peace for the children of the world, at the beginning of the new millennium, would give a strong encouragement to the efforts of the international community to foster harmony, peace and development on behalf of the children of the globe,

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[2] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

"Noting with satisfaction that the initiative of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates has been supported by many Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals of all spiritual traditions, in all regions of the world,

"1. Proclaims that the period 2001-2010 shall constitute the international decade for a culture of non-violence and peace for the children of the world;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, prepared in consultation with the Nobel Peace Prize laureates and with all relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, with respect to finalizing the draft programme of action of the Decade in connection with the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to nominate a specific team to coordinate the agenda and mandate of the Decade;

"3. Also invites all Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of non-violence, which will focus on the practical meaning and benefits of the practice of non-violence in daily life, is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including in each educational institution, and calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, spiritual leaders throughout the world, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the media, the performing arts and civil societies to actively support the Decade for the benefit of each child of the world without anyone's being left behind;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled 'Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)'."

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000

Afghanistan*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi*, Cape Verde, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Gabon, Guinea*, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan*, Madagascar*, Mali*, Morocco*, Niger*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Poland, Qatar*, Swaziland*, Saint Lucia, Turkmenistan* and Togo: draft resolution

Corrigendum

The above-mentioned document is hereby withdrawn.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Agenda item 2
Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization

Draft ministerial communiqué submitted by the President of the Council

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the high-level policy dialogue and the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1998 of the Economic and Social Council, held from 6 to 8 July 1998, having considered the theme "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization", have adopted the following communiqué:

1. Fifty years ago, the multilateral trading system was established as the result of a process that had begun at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, which was held pursuant to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, adopted by the Council at its first session, in 1946, in which the Council called for a conference to draft a convention for the establishment of an international trade organization. Over the succeeding decades, the multilateral trading system made an important contribution to growth, employment and stability by promoting the liberalization and expansion of trade and by providing a framework for the conduct of international trade relations. Today, we reaffirm and renew our commitment to uphold and strengthen the system which contributes to the economic and social advancement of all countries and peoples.

2. The continued marginalization of the least developed countries concerns us deeply. Arresting and reversing their marginalization, and promoting their expeditious integration into the world economy, constitute an ethical imperative for the international community. We will work together towards further enhanced market access for their exports within the context of supporting their own efforts at capacity-building. We therefore welcome the initiatives taken by the World Trade Organization in cooperation with other organizations to implement the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries, including through effective follow-up of the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development, held in October 1997. We recognize that full implementation of the Plan of Action requires further progress towards duty-free imports from least developed countries. We also invite the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other relevant organizations to provide enhanced technical assistance to help strengthen the supply capacity of the least developed countries and to help

98-19553 (E) 070798

them take the fullest possible advantage of trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization.

3. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations resulted in a more open, rule-based and predictable multilateral trading system and in significant improvements in market access conditions. Furthermore, since the establishment of the World Trade Organization, important multilateral negotiations have been concluded that have increased market access for information technology products, basic telecommunications services, and financial services. In addition, the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization, which strengthens the rule-based multilateral trading system, provides effective recourse to members with regard to defending their market access rights.

4. However, significant non-tariff and tariff barriers and high variance, with tariff peaks and tariff escalation, still affect a notable range of products and sectors, particularly ones of export interest to developing countries, including the least developed countries. The degree of market access commitments in trade in services varies considerably. Future trade negotiations should take these issues into account with a view to securing further broad-based trade liberalization for the benefit of everyone. Resort to trade actions in the form of contingency measures, such as anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties, and of unilateral actions should be subject to increased multilateral surveillance so that they respect and are consistent with multilateral rules and obligations.

5. Important gains in market access for developing countries' exports have been achieved through regional trading agreements which have built upon increased disciplines and tariff concessions resulting from the Uruguay Round. Bearing in mind the primacy of the multilateral trading system, and the importance of open regional economic integration, regional trade agreements should be outward-oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system.

6. We stress the importance of effective application by all members of the World Trade Organization of all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, taking into account the specific interests of developing countries and in this respect reiterate the need for the effective implementation of the special provisions in the multilateral trade agreements and related ministerial decisions in favour of developing country members, in particular the least developed among them. The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) remains a major instrument for further improving market access of developing countries; there is scope and need for further improvement of the GSP, especially for the least developed countries.

7. We recall that the second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization decided to establish a process to ensure full and faithful implementation of existing agreements and to prepare for the third Ministerial Conference. In this regard, we stress the importance of the submission by the General Council of the World Trade Organization of recommendations regarding the work programme of the World Trade Organization, including further liberalization sufficiently broad-based to respond to the range of interests and concerns of all members of the organization within the framework of the World Trade Organization, that will enable the members to take decisions at the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. The second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization also decided that the General Council of the World Trade Organization would establish a comprehensive work programme to examine all trade-related issues relating to global electronic commerce. In this regard, we stress the importance of assisting developing countries in capacity-building and the development of their services infrastructure, in order to enable them to maximize the benefits they could derive from electronic commerce. Countries with economies in transition also need such assistance. We call upon UNCTAD, in collaboration with other organizations, to provide appropriate analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries in this area.

8. We strongly underline the need to provide technical assistance to developing countries for capacity-building in trade negotiations and in taking fullest possible advantage of the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization. We acknowledge with appreciation the assistance given by UNCTAD to developing countries through its policy research and analysis and technical assistance and we invite UNCTAD to continue to provide such support, including assisting developing countries in formulating a positive agenda for future trade negotiations.

9. We attach great importance to the diversification of African economies and increased market access for their export products. In this regard, we express our appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for recently putting forward an action-oriented agenda for the development of Africa. Continued efforts are needed to enhance market access for products of export interest to Africa and to support the African economies' efforts at diversification and building of supply capacity.

10. We are concerned about the financial crisis afflicting a number of countries, with its serious implications for world economic and trading prospects. There is a need for improved measures to address the negative effects of the volatility of international capital flows on the international trading system and the development prospects of developing countries. Keeping all markets open and maintaining continued growth in world trade are key elements in overcoming this crisis. In this context, we reject the use of any protectionist measures. Consideration should be given to the trade financing needs of the countries affected by the crisis to enable them to import essential items. It is important that the momentum towards increased trade liberalization, particularly as regards products of interest to developing countries, be maintained, and be given attention in the work leading up to the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. At a broader level, there is a need for greater coherence between the development objectives agreed to by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial system. To this end, we call for close cooperation among the United Nations, and multilateral trade and international financial institutions. An important step in this direction was the convening of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, on 18 April 1998.

11. While noting that multilateral trade agreements have contributed to security of market access for members of the World Trade Organization, we recognize that such security is not enjoyed by non-members, including those seeking accession to the organization. We emphasize the importance of attainment of the universality of the multilateral trading system and the need for government members of the World Trade Organization and relevant international organizations to provide assistance to non-members of the World Trade Organization, so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious and transparent manner on the basis of World Trade Organization-related rights and obligations. The World Trade Organization and UNCTAD are invited to provide the necessary technical assistance to these countries in this regard.

12. We welcome the development of a collaborative and complementary relationship between UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization, which augurs well for the multilateral trading system and for effective integration therein of developing countries, including the least developed countries. We also express our appreciation to the secretariats of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization for jointly preparing their excellent report (E/1998/55) for the high-level segment.

Notes

[1] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE 2000

Afghanistan*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi*, Cape Verde, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Gabon, Guinea*, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan*, Madagascar*, Mali*, Malta*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Niger*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines*, Poland, Qatar*, Saint Lucia, Swaziland*, Turkmenistan*, Togo and Venezuela*: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly, in this year of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] which sustains the spirit, concept and practice of peace and non-violence, the adoption at its fifty-third session of the following resolution:

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (111).

"International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 proclaiming the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as General Assembly resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

"Recognizing that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of our societies throughout the world and that principles and practice of non-violence and peace can promote respect for life and dignity of each human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind, especially for the world's children,

"Recognizing also the role of education in constructing a culture of non-violence and peace, in particular by teaching the practice of non-violence to children, as it promotes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace that emanates from childhood will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation for socio-economic and cultural development, and will help children to be aware, not only of their rights but also of their responsibilities, by learning how to live together in harmony, within their families and among fellow human beings,

"Underlining that the proposed decade will contribute to advance the implementation of the other objectives, activities and programmes of the United Nations aimed at promoting human rights, education, non-discrimination, volunteers' commitments, protection of the environment and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

"Convinced that an international decade for a culture of non-violence and peace for the children of the world, at the beginning of the new millennium, would give a strong encouragement to the efforts of the international community to foster harmony, peace and development throughout the world,

"1. Proclaims that the period 2001-2010 will constitute the International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, in consultation with all relevant

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[2] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, to finalize the draft programme of action of the Decade in connection with the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the agenda and mandate of the Decade;

"3. Invites each Member State to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of non-violence is taught at all levels in their society including in each educational institution, which will focus on the practical meaning and benefits of the practice of non-violence in daily life;

"4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, spiritual leaders throughout the world, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the media, the performing arts and civil societies to actively support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled 'International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)'."

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000

Afghanistan*, Antigua and Barbuda*, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi*, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Djibouti, Ecuador*, El Salvador Gabon, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guyana, India, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan*, Madagascar*, Mali*, Malta*, Mauritius, Morocco*, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger*, Nigeria*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines, Poland, Qatar*, Saint Lucia, Swaziland*, Togo, Turkmenistan* and Venezuela*: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution at its fifty-third session:

"International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 proclaiming the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as its resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

"Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/54 of 17 April 1998 entitled 'Towards a culture of peace',[1]

"Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004),

"Taking into account the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled 'Towards a culture of peace',

"Aware that the task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society,

"Recognizing that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of society throughout the world and that a culture of peace and non-violence promotes respect for life and dignity of every human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind,

"Also recognizing the role of education in constructing a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular by teaching the practice of peace and non-violence to children, which will promote the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence should emanate from adults and be instilled in children, by which they learn to live together in peace and harmony which will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation,

"Underlining that the proposed decade will contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and on respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance, the promotion of development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women as an integral approach to preventing violence and conflicts, and efforts aimed at the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation,

"Convinced that an international decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world, at the beginning of the new millennium, would greatly assist the efforts of the international community

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[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

to foster peace, harmony, all human rights, democracy and development throughout the world,

"1. Proclaims the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and a draft programme of action to promote the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the activities of the Decade;

"3. Invites Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including in educational institutions;

"4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and invites non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and groups, educational institutions, artists and the media to actively support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world;

"5. Decides to consider, at its fifty-fifth session, the question of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) under the agenda item entitled 'Culture of peace'."

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Substantive session of 1998
New York, 6-31 July 1998
Agenda item 5

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, H.E. Mr. Alyaksandr Sychou (Belarus)

1. The Economic and Social Council is addressing the theme of "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian activities of the United Nations system" in its first humanitarian segment. Previous relevant resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and its annex, including the guiding principles contained therein, provide the basis of this discussion.

2. The Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/53/139-E/1998/67). It welcomes progress made in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and wishes to give guidance for further developments in this direction.

3. The Council reiterates the need for coordinated humanitarian assistance and adequate financial resources to ensure an ongoing capacity for a prompt, timely and effective response by the United Nations system to natural disasters and other emergencies, both for immediate relief and for the smooth transition between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, which are not necessarily sequential and often proceed at the same time.

4. The Council reaffirms that humanitarian operations are generally implemented through close cooperation among Governments and the United Nations, its agencies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory. Hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory. The magnitude and duration of many emergencies may be beyond the response capacity of many affected countries. International cooperation to address emergency situations and strengthen the response capacity of affected

countries is thus of great importance. Such cooperation should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working impartially and with strictly humanitarian motives should continue to make a significant contribution in supplementing national efforts.

5. The Council is concerned by the growing number of natural disasters and environmental emergencies which often strike countries that lack the resources to cope with them adequately.

6. The Council affirms its support for the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, and stresses the urgent need to ensure respect for and promotion of these principles and norms. The Council is also concerned by the increasingly difficult context in which humanitarian assistance in some areas takes place, in particular the continuous erosion, in many cases, of the respect for international humanitarian law and principles, through deliberate violence both against civilians, particularly women and children, and aid workers. The Council welcomes the continued efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to prevent the targeting of women and children in conflict situations, stop the recruitment and use of children as soldiers in hostilities in violation of international law, and support the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. The Council notes the importance of engaging a much wider segment of civil society in raising awareness for humanitarian issues and respect for international humanitarian law and principles, and in supporting humanitarian programmes.

7. The Council reaffirms General Assembly resolution 52/167 of 16 December 1997 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, in which the Assembly calls upon all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, in countries where humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons. The Council also reaffirms the necessity for all humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the countries in which they are operating.

8. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, should ensure that a gender perspective is fully integrated into humanitarian activities and policies.

9. The Council welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, in particular through the creation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with its three core functions of policy development and coordination, advocacy of humanitarian issues and coordination of humanitarian emergency response, as well as the guiding objectives of the Office in implementing the reforms. It fully supports the leadership role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for the ongoing coordination of humanitarian

assistance activities and prioritization of programmes within United Nations Consolidated Appeals. The Council notes that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for sharing all relevant information with the United Nations Mine Action Service, the focal point within the United Nations system for all mine-related activities, and other partners on the humanitarian implications of landmines, and will work to ensure that humanitarian needs are met as an integral component of the overall humanitarian endeavour.

10. The Council commends the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination for its efforts to achieve coherent coordination structures at the field level and to promote, at the inter-agency level, a clear division of responsibilities and ensure accountability, as well as for improving the reporting modalities by the funds and programmes on their humanitarian assistance activities. The Council welcomes the use of inter-agency negotiating teams led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to advocate the respect of humanitarian principles in the field and the development of contingency planning.

11. The Council notes with satisfaction the designation of the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the focal point for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and also notes the adoption by IASC of the guiding principles on IDPs, and encourages the Emergency Relief Coordinator, in fulfilling this function, to work closely with all agencies and organizations involved, in particular with the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs, who will report to the Commission of Human Rights on his efforts and on the views expressed to him on these guiding principles.

12. The Council shares the view of the Secretary-General that the resident coordinator should normally coordinate the humanitarian assistance activities of the United Nations by assuming the dual function of resident/humanitarian coordinator. Other mechanisms, namely the appointment of a humanitarian coordinator distinct from the resident coordinator and the designation of a lead agency as well as the appointment of a regional coordinator, might be justified under appropriate circumstances. The Council fully supports enhanced efforts to clarify the parameters of authority for the resident/humanitarian coordinator functions, the establishment of selection criteria and procedures, and specific training and performance review mechanisms for humanitarian coordinators, and encourages the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and IASC to pursue these goals vigorously. The Council encourages all United Nations funds and programmes to cooperate fully in developing and maintaining a roster of qualified candidates.

13. The Council calls upon the Secretary-General to develop emergency rules and procedures to ensure a rapid response to humanitarian crises, as requested in General Assembly resolution 46/182.

14. The Council welcomes the emphasis in the report of the Secretary-General on the issues of natural disasters and environmental emergencies, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to this aspect of the Emergency Relief Coordinator's mandate. The Council reaffirms that disaster reduction forms an integral part

of the sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities. The Council stresses that disaster preparedness and early warning must be further strengthened at country and regional levels, inter alia, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with interested Governments, regional organizations and other relevant sectors, in order to maximize the effectiveness of natural disaster response, in particular in developing countries. Particular efforts should be undertaken to enhance local capacity in disaster response, as well as to utilize capacities already existing in developing countries which may be available closer to the site of a disaster and at lower cost. The Council commends the work of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams in providing rapid need assessments and facilitating the coordination of disaster response. The Council takes note that a review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) will take place at the substantive session of 1999 of the Council.

15. The Council commends the Emergency Relief Coordinator for his efforts in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/200 entitled 'International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon' and invites the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on El Niño to provide its experiences on national capacity programmes for disaster management as an input to the development of the disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century.

16. The Council recognizes the contributions made by donor Governments to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance and notes that the unearmarked contributions to the reserve of this Trust Fund could usefully be increased, and therefore strongly encourages further contributions to this reserve.

17. The Council recognizes that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously. It also recognizes that a "relief/development gap" may occur in countries emerging from crisis which maybe addressed, inter alia, through a strategic framework, to be developed in consultation with Governments. The Council notes the need to develop, through a strategic framework, when appropriate, a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, in which key aspects of durable recovery, peace-building, all human rights, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences, are included. The development of such a comprehensive approach must involve national authorities as well as the United Nations system, donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. National authorities must take a leading role in all aspects of the recovery plan. In this context, the Council welcomes the recognition by the World Bank of the need for its entry into an early dialogue with humanitarian agencies and to participate from the outset in effective coordination mechanisms in relation to countries emerging from crisis. The Council stresses that strengthening capacities to enable societies in post-conflict situations to manage their own affairs is a critical factor for recovery and development. In this context, the roles and responsibilities of Governments are important.

18. The Council underlines that the consolidated appeal process (CAP) remains the principal resource mobilization tool for humanitarian assistance. The Council stresses the importance of ensuring adequate funding for humanitarian activities, in particular of consolidated appeals. It welcomes efforts to prioritize needs and to enhance capabilities so as to better take into account linkages with development-oriented activities which should continue to be intensified. It underlines that the consolidated appeals process should be carried out in full collaboration with United Nations bodies and other relevant humanitarian organizations, international financial institutions, donors and host Governments as an important step towards a more integrated and strategic approach. It stresses that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance. The Council encourages the efforts to improve the format and structure of the CAP so as to make them effective programming instruments for the purpose of strategic planning. The Council further stresses that strengthened United Nations humanitarian activities must be supported by adequate responses to all United Nations humanitarian appeals. Broadening the base of the donors may contribute to an increased response to appeals. The Council stresses that the response to international appeals should not be overly influenced by the levels of media interest, and must be commensurate with the needs of the affected population.

19. The Council invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, for its consideration, his proposals for putting the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on a sound financial basis for the coordination of humanitarian assistance activities.

20. The Council stresses the importance of ensuring an overall accountability of humanitarian actors. It supports the development by IASC of a field-based system for strategic monitoring which will help assess how programme targets and strategic objectives are being met.

21. The Council affirms the importance of discussion of policies and activities in the humanitarian area in the Council and the General Assembly. The Council requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to recommend, at its organizational session, ways in which the humanitarian segment may be enhanced so as to strengthen the role of the Council as regards the coordination and policy guidance of United Nations system humanitarian activities, taking fully into account the outcome and views expressed by Member States during the substantive session of 1998 of the Council.

22. The Council requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next humanitarian segment on the implementation of/follow-up to these agreed conclusions.

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Substantive session of 1998
New York, 6-31 July 1998
Agenda item 7 (d)

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of the deep interest of Member States in harnessing the benefits of new information technologies for furthering the objectives of the United Nations, including the objectives of economic and social development,

Recalling its resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996 and 1997/1 of 18 July 1997 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Also recalling that in its resolution 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, it commended the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it had taken in pursuance of its mandate, and requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item,

Welcoming the oral report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far by the Working Group in fulfilling its mandate,

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Highly appreciative of the accomplishments of the Working Group, which include:

(a) The distribution of a large number of computers under a technical assistance programme to enable the missions of the developing countries to overcome the difficulty of hardware availability;

(b) Informatics symposiums, which are working to build a strong collaboration among the United Nations, Member States and the private sector for the pursuit of common objectives;

(c) The programme of outreach from the United Nations to academic institutions through video-conferencing,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution A/52/233 of 17 June 1998, in which the Assembly emphasized the coordinated efforts by Governments and private, public and international organizations required to address the year 2000 problem,

Deeply appreciative that the work of the Working Group has not involved any additional expenditures, and that its needs have been met from within existing resources,

Highly appreciative that the work done by the Working Group has already resulted in savings for the United Nations and its Member States, and has created opportunities for further savings,

Taking note with deep interest of the proposed initiatives of the Working Group, including the promotion of computer-based decision-making techniques to facilitate the drafting of resolutions and documents in ways that would accelerate the reaching of agreements in the drafting process, and the employment of modern information technology for the development activities of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the work done by the Working Group will support and facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with a view to expanding the use of information technology and the availability and transparency of information in order to further facilitate access to United Nations information in all countries,

Agreeing with the assessment in the report of the Working Group that further work needs to be done by the Working Group to fulfil its mandate,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the United Nations to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/1,[1]

1. Reiterates, once again, the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and for observers, through, inter alia, their permanent missions, to the

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[1] E/1998/44.

growing number of computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations;

2. Calls for the urgent and continued implementation of measures required to achieve these objectives;

3. Reaffirms the continuing need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users can be given due priority;

4. Decides that the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States should continue to be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States;

5. Highly commends the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it has taken and for the impressive results it has produced in pursuance of its mandate;

6. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Working Group for one more year, from within existing resources, for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item and for facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to use of information technology;

7. Emphasizes the need for global cooperation to ensure timely and effective response to the year 2000 challenge;

8. Requests the Working Group on Informatics to continue its work for an Information Management Strategy;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 1999 on the follow-up action taken on the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Draft resolution submitted by Lithuania*

Input to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/8

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 50/8 of 1 November 1995 on the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, in which, in operative paragraph 3, the Assembly decided, inter alia, that the distribution of seats determined therein was to be reviewed within two years after the establishment of the Executive Board,

Requests the General Assembly during the first part of its fifty-third session to review the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme with a view to achieving its final outcome in accordance with annex I, paragraphs 25 and 30 and other relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162.

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* On behalf of the Eastern European States and in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Agenda item 8

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS 50/227 and 52/12 B

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997,

1. Adopts the texts contained in the annexes to the present resolution;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the functional commissions for the interest they have taken in reviewing their working methods and encourages them to continue to do so, taking into account the suggestions and recommendations appearing in annex II to the present resolution and to adopt practices best suited to their mandates, priorities and responsibilities;

3. Welcomes the reform measures undertaken by the regional commissions and encourages them to continue to undertake, under the aegis of their respective intergovernmental bodies, further measures to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness;

4. Decides to continue its deliberations on pending issues pursuant to the mandates given to it, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B;

5. Also decides to hold, at its resumed substantive session of 1998, elections for the composition of the bodies as laid down in annex I to the

present resolution, so that these bodies are fully constituted from 1 January 1999; and requests the Bureau to work out appropriate mechanism for the holding of the elections for this purpose;

6. Further decides to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 70 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227 and paragraphs 9 and 10 of Assembly resolution 52/12 B.

ANNEX I

A. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall remain a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, and shall continue to meet biennially for two weeks.

2. The Commission is encouraged to sharpen the focus of its work, devoting particular attention to the issues of transfer of technology and capacity-building, in particular of the developing countries. In regard to technology transfer, examination of concrete applications/activities is encouraged.

3. Effective coordination shall be established with all other functional commissions and with the Economic and Social Council. The Commission should concentrate in particular on working closely with the Commission on Sustainable Development and with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/Trade and Development Board. Methods to be employed to enhance these linkages should include the following:

(a) Closer communication should be established between the Bureaux of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as with other Bureaux of the functional commissions, as appropriate;

(b) Regular communication should take place between the secretariats/offices servicing the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/Trade and Development Board;

(c) The outcome of the meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should continue to be made available to the States Members of the United Nations, including through briefings to delegations in Geneva and New York by the Bureau and secretariat of the Commission;

(d) The outcome of the meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be shared for information purposes with all relevant functional commissions and other relevant United Nations bodies.

4. The coordination between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, should be improved and made more effective.

5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shall continue to serve as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Commission should make maximum use of the expertise that the secretariat of the Conference can offer, while also drawing, as appropriate, on expertise from elsewhere in the United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and relevant specialized agencies.

6. The membership of the Commission is to be reduced from fifty-three to thirty-three with the following geographical distribution: eight members from African States; seven members from Asian States; six members from Latin American and Caribbean States; four members from Eastern European States; and eight members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years.

B. Committee for Development Planning

7. The Committee for Development Planning shall be renamed the Committee for Development Policy and shall continue to be a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

8. It shall comprise twenty-four independent experts with a good mix of expertise, who are to be drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance. Membership should include those who are able to contribute on emerging issues and to the multilateral process. The experts should be nominated by the Secretary-General, after consultation with interested Governments, and approved by the Economic and Social Council. The term of office is to be three years.

9. The Committee shall continue the triennial review of the status of least developed countries, and shall meet on this issue once every three years.

10. The Economic and Social Council should decide on an appropriate work programme for the Committee for Development Policy. In January/February of each year, the Council, at the time of deciding the themes for its substantive session, should advise the Committee about the theme(s) to be considered at the Committee's annual session, not to exceed five working days, to be held in April/May. The Committee will submit its report to the Council at its substantive session in July. The report will also include the Committee's proposals to the Council concerning its work programme for the following year, for consideration and approval at the next organizational session of the Council in January/February.

11. The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee for Development Policy.

12. Dissemination of information on the Committee's work should be improved, including, inter alia, by establishing an Internet Web site and through a presentation by its Bureau on the outcome of its deliberations.

13. In undertaking its responsibilities, the Committee on Development Policy should, in addition to holding its formal meetings, explore the scope for effective preparations for their deliberations via informal networking arrangements. The Secretariat should provide assistance in this regard.

C. Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

D. Committee on Natural Resources

14. The two Committees shall be merged into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development which shall serve as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

15. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should comprise, with due attention to geographical representation and gender balance, two sub-groups of [twelve] experts nominated by Governments and approved by the Economic and Social Council. One sub-group should deal with issues relating to energy, the other with issues relating to water resources. [The geographical distribution is to be as follows: six members from African States; five members from Asian States; four members from Latin American and Caribbean States; three members from Eastern European States; and six members from Western European and other States.] The term of office is to be four years.

16. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development shall meet biennially for two weeks on the understanding that the days available should be divided evenly in a flexible manner between the two sub-groups.

17. Upon the recommendation of both or either of the expert groups of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Economic and Social Council may decide modalities for the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, when necessary, to consider issues relating to minerals.

18. In addition, the General Assembly may invite the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions to consider effective ways to address, within their respective competences, relevant aspects of this issue.

19. In formulating its programme of work, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and decision, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should take into full account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, so as to ensure that its own work programme will be structured in a manner that could enable it to contribute to the work of the Commission. The Council, in considering and deciding on the work programme of the Committee, should ensure the special relationship between the Committee and the Commission and a coherence between their respective work programmes. For its part, the Commission is requested to

consider which aspects of its multi-year work programme the Committee can usefully address.

20. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should maintain close links with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, as appropriate.

ANNEX II

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES

1. The General Assembly in its resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B mandated review by the Economic and Social Council of the Council's functional commissions.[1] In recent years, the functional commissions have taken an interest in reviewing their own working methods and should continue to do so, benefiting from the experience gained. Each commission should be encouraged to adopt practices best suited to its mandate and responsibilities. In this respect, the following general suggestions and recommendations are provided by the Economic and Social Council to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functional commissions.

A. Working methods

2. Bearing in mind the interlinkages of issues and their cross-cutting nature, there is a need for the functional commissions to strengthen their coordination, while paying careful attention to the mandates and terms of reference of each commission. The Economic and Social Council has to play a key role in this process. In this context, adoption of multi-year thematic programme for the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences can be helpful.

3. For those functional commissions that have more than one theme for discussion, sufficient time should be allocated for each of the priority themes so as to enable Member States to have focused and in-depth discussions, bearing in mind the interlinkages between the priority themes.

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[1] The functional commission of the Economic and Social Council entrusted with the follow-up to major United Nations conferences are the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, and the Commission on Human Settlements. Although the Commission on Human Settlements is a standing committee, the collective term "functional commissions" is used throughout the present annex.

4. Inter-sessional meetings can help to focus a commission's work by identifying key elements to be discussed and important problems to be addressed within a specific item pertaining to that work. These meetings should contribute to the preparations for the meeting of a functional commission, but should not be a substitute for intergovernmental debates in the context of the meeting of the commission itself.

5. Meetings hosted and funded by Governments can also provide useful inputs to the work of functional commissions, in relation to their respective work programmes.

6. The work of the commission should be organized in such a way as to enable agenda items that may lead to negotiated outcomes to be introduced early, so that there is sufficient time for informal consultation on the outcomes.

7. To avoid duplication or overlap, functional commissions may also be encouraged to request through the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, that another functional commission be charged to look into an issue under consideration by the commission making the request, without overloading the other commission's work programme. Functional commissions may be encouraged to request through the Council, as appropriate, additional inputs from other functional commissions on issues of interest to the commission making the request.

8. Functional commissions should make better use of panels of experts which should have balanced representation so as to facilitate consideration of substantive issues. As far as possible, synopses of statements that panelists propose to make should be circulated to Member States sufficiently in advance to facilitate a well-prepared dialogue. Care should be taken to ensure that panel members focus their presentations on the agenda item(s) under discussion, and not on a related subject, so that adequate time is available for dialogue. Bureaux should ensure that the time allocated to the intergovernmental debate is adequate.

9. Functional commissions should also explore ways to exchange national experiences and best practices in the implementation of effective conference follow-up, including through voluntary national presentations of country experiences and interactive dialogues. The dialogues should focus in particular on lessons learned from national-level conference follow-up. It is also necessary that the Secretariat provide Member States with the highlights of such best practices and lessons learned.

10. Bearing in mind the importance of the general debate in providing useful input for the themes under discussion, the functional commissions should ensure that the debate is focused, adds value and contributes to action-oriented outcomes of the session.

11. Functional commissions must ensure that they add value to the process of implementing the programmes of action adopted by the major global conferences. The commissions should therefore focus on:

(a) Deliberating on the progress achieved and constraints faced as well as action-oriented recommendations on the conference outcomes at the national and international levels;

(b) Fostering the exchange of local, national and regional experiences on implementing conference outcomes;

(c) Reviewing progress achieved at the national and international levels on specific issues under their multi-year work programmes through appropriate reporting systems, so as to draw attention to common experiences, successful approaches and areas of particular difficulty, and to identify new and emerging issues that require priority attention;

(d) Producing clear, concise and action-oriented outcomes of their deliberations.

12. The voluntary submission of national information, including, for example, information in the form of periodic communications or national reports by Governments, represents a valuable contribution to the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the recommendations of relevant conferences. The Economic and Social Council should reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to prepare a standardized and simplified format, which could be used by Governments in preparing information on a single subject or on clusters of subjects.

13. Functional commissions should mainstream a gender perspective in their work by fully implementing agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council,[2] in particular the sixteenth paragraph thereof.

B. Role of the Bureau

14. The Bureau plays a crucial role in the successful outcome of, and in facilitating the preparation for, the meeting. The incoming Bureau should preferably be elected immediately after the conclusion of the previous session of the commission, as appropriate. Therefore, early designation by regional groups of their candidatures, especially for the position of Chairman, is important.

15. Inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau are very useful and important in preparing for the upcoming session. Regular and informal open-ended briefings by the Bureau, in conjunction with the Secretariat and the Member States, on the preparation for the session, need to be further encouraged. In order to enable the Bureau to carry out its functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing appropriate financial support, through extrabudgetary contributions, to members of the Bureau, particularly from the developing countries, so as to enable them to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, in inter-sessional meetings of the commission and in the sessions of the commission itself.

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[2] See A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

16. The Bureaux of the functional commissions, along with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, are encouraged to enhance coordination, in particular through regular meetings whenever necessary. In addition to meeting, Bureaux should explore the scope for coordination via informal networking arrangements. The Secretariat should provide assistance in this regard.

17. The Bureaux of the functional commissions should conduct transparent and open-ended consultations with Member States, with a view to seeking guidance from and ensuring greater involvement of, Member States in the preparatory work of the sessions of the commissions.

C. Participation

18. The participation of officials from capitals responsible for the specific follow-up to United Nations conferences, as well as experts, should be encouraged. High-level participation is desirable and will be facilitated by enhancing the quality of deliberations in the functional commissions.

19. Participation of other relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other specialized agencies, should be encouraged, where appropriate.

20. Functional commissions entrusted with conference follow-up have benefited from the breadth of expertise of non-governmental organizations and the capacity of those organizations to support the work of the United Nations. Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, functional commissions should take into account in their deliberations the full diversity of the views of non-governmental organizations at the national, regional and international levels. Efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries.

D. Documentation

21. Reports should be concise, coherent and analytical in order to facilitate a focused discussion and a productive outcome.

22. Reports should contain clear and action-oriented recommendations, which would enhance effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences.

23. The availability of reports through electronic format, though desirable, should not substitute for hard-copy reports which must be made available in a timely manner in all official United Nations languages, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/214 B of 22 December 1997.

24. In the preparatory process, the convening of workshops, seminars, round tables and panel of experts focusing on the priority themes may provide many useful ideas in the preparation of documentation and, therefore, should be given appropriate consideration. In this context, it is important that efforts should

be made to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in such forums. Consultations with other relevant actors, including non-State actors, when possible and as appropriate, can be useful in the preparation of reports.

25. In the preparation of reports by the Secretariat for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Council's subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General should continue to make use, when appropriate, of the practice of designating task managers, so that a particular United Nations agency would be responsible for coordinating the response of the entire United Nations system on a given subject, including the formulation of recommendations for future action. All relevant bodies in the United Nations system should be involved in the preparatory process, as appropriate. Where necessary, task forces, reporting to an assigned manager, should be established to facilitate coordination of inputs.

26. An early exchange of views by/with the Secretariat and Member States on the preparation of reports can be helpful in strengthening their content. The Bureau should monitor timely preparation.

27. To allow more time for the Member States to interact with each other, the introduction of the reports by the Secretariat should be kept to the minimum length necessary and, whenever possible, a group of related documents should be introduced together.

28. Recommendations in the reports should focus on steps taken and measures required to enhance the full implementation of conference outcomes at the national and international levels, and clearly identify those actions that are required for a coordinated United Nations system-wide response. In preparing such reports, the Secretariat should draw on the experiences gained by Member States in their national implementation of follow-up to conferences, bearing in mind that the reporting on national implementation of conference outcomes is the responsibility of Governments. In this regard, support provided by the international community should also be included. The Secretariat should also draw on the experience gained by the United Nations system in assisting implementation at the field level, including through the resident coordinator system. Input from the resident coordinator system should be prepared in full consultation with the national Government.

29. The Secretariat is requested to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation and to ensure that the intergovernmental machinery is made aware of the decisions and recommendations of the relevant bodies in relation to gender mainstreaming.

30. Functional commissions, at the conclusion of each session, should consider and decide, upon recommendation of their Bureaux, whether their outputs might be relevant to the work of other functional commissions and, if so, request the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to arrange for this material to be brought to the attention of the other commissions in a timely manner. Functional commissions could also consider whether the reports of other

functional commissions are relevant to their work and, if so, request the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to arrange for this material to be made available to them.

E. Outcome/reporting

31. The format of the outcomes of the meetings will vary from one functional commission to another, but the outcome should be focused and concise, should contain concrete recommendations and actions, based on intergovernmental deliberations and negotiations, and should not be intended as a redefinition of the already agreed documents of the major conferences.

32. The Secretariat should produce a consolidated report for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council that looks at linkages between the functional commissions. This report should highlight the key points on which the Council needs to consider taking action.

33. The Economic and Social Council should, for its part, ensure that it reviews the above-mentioned recommendations, concentrating in particular on horizontal or cross-cutting issues, with a view in particular to ensuring consistency between recommendations presented by different functional commissions. Within the agreed outputs, the functional commissions should clearly identify any recommendations that have coordination, programmatic or budgetary implications for the United Nations.

34. The Member States should be given ample time to negotiate the outcome of the meetings.

35. While recognizing the right of any Member State to introduce draft resolutions or decisions that it deems necessary, functional commissions should be encouraged to utilize agreed outputs that serve to integrate the particular sectoral concerns that may arise within the overall framework of the follow-up to a global conference, as appropriate.

F. Relations with the Economic and Social Council

36. The Economic and Social Council should focus on improving the effectiveness of the functional commissions, including their role as instruments for conference follow-up, through better working methods and harmonization of their multi-year work programmes. The Council should monitor on a yearly basis the steps taken by functional commissions in response to Council recommendations on the harmonization of work programmes. The Council should also monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions mainstream a gender perspective on the basis of the report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

37. The Economic and Social Council should ensure that general discussion in the functional commissions on cross-cutting issues common to major United Nations conferences should be within their respective areas of competence and

within their multi-year programmes of work in order to foster the discussion of such issues by the Council and the General Assembly.

38. The Economic and Social Council needs to be fully informed of the coordinating work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination so that it can ensure that the functional commissions are aware in a timely manner of the work of the Committee related to the follow-up to the major global conferences.

G. Interrelationship between functional commissions

39. As agreed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 of 25 July 1997, cooperation among functional commissions should be supported and enhanced by the Bureau of the Council with the assistance of the respective secretariats of the functional commissions.

H. Relations with the regional commissions and other relevant regional bodies

40. The regional commissions have been given specific mandates for the follow-up to the major global conferences, and they have an important role to play in this regard.

41. Bearing in mind the important role of the regional commissions and other regional bodies in implementing the outcome of the major global conferences, their contribution should be reflected in the work of the functional commissions.

ANNEX III

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

1. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B, mandated a review by the Economic and Social Council of the regional commissions. The commissions, in response to Assembly resolution 50/227 and Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, as well as on their own initiatives, have carried out reforms with differences in content and scope, in accordance with specificities of each region, aimed at achieving greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The Economic and Social Council welcomes the reform measures undertaken by the commissions and encourages them to continue to undertake, as appropriate, under the aegis of their respective intergovernmental bodies, further measures in this regard.

3. The Economic and Social Council recognizes that each regional commission operates in a different economic and institutional environment and that regional commissions should therefore continue to respond to regional needs as reflected in the priorities set by members of the respective commissions.

4. Bearing this in mind, as well as the role of the regional commissions within the United Nations system in their respective regions as mandated in section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the following guidance is provided by the Economic and Social Council with respect to improving the commissions' contributions and relevance in the reform process of the United Nations, in accordance with the mandates and priorities of each of the commissions.

A. The regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations

5. According to regional needs and circumstances, the regional commissions fulfil norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions as well as undertake operational activities that are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The regional commissions provide an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues, and for building consensus within their respective regions. This capacity should be utilized more fully by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate.

6. Linking the activities of the regional commissions more effectively with the overall activities of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors should be pursued vigorously. The active involvement and participation of the Executive Secretaries of the commissions, or their representatives, in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group should be effectively ensured.

7. The undertaking of joint exercises in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities should be encouraged between each of the secretariats of the commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat on the basis of memoranda/letters of understanding and should be reflected in their respective programmes of work.

8. An important role has been given to the regional commissions in the preparations for and follow-up to major United Nations conferences in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities. The Economic and Social Council should provide overall guidance for the work of the regional commissions in this area, bearing in mind the need for a multisectoral approach.

9. The Economic and Social Council welcomes the ongoing exercises in some of the regional commissions on priority-setting, and encourages the other regional commissions to carry out similar activities. The involvement of Governments in this process should help the commissions achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.

10. Improving coordination of the activities of the regional commissions and various United Nations entities operating at the regional level, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, within their respective mandates and priorities, is particularly important. This should be further addressed through the following concrete measures:

(a) Reactivation of the United Nations Development Programme/regional commissions task force for the purpose of addressing, more effectively, issues of common concern;

(b) Closer consultation of the regional commissions by the United Nations Development Programme during the programming stages of its regional activities, with the Programme considering the commissions to be partners in the undertaking of those activities. The secretariats of the regional commissions should make available to the relevant offices of the Programme, in particular the regional bureaux, their respective programmes of work.

11. The potential for active involvement of the regional commissions in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be reviewed in the ongoing pilot phase of the Framework.

B. The regional commissions as part of their respective regional institutional landscape

12. The role of the regional commissions as part of the institutional landscape of their respective regions calls for close cooperation between the commissions and other relevant regional bodies in order to reinforce synergies and complementarities between their respective programmes of work. The regional commissions are encouraged to intensify their cooperation and regular exchange of information, as determined by their respective intergovernmental bodies, with relevant regional bodies, institutions and networks. When holding meetings with their respective regional bodies and institutions, the regional commissions should ensure that such meetings concentrate on specific issues for which a regional coordinated approach is desirable and reflect the mandates and priorities of the regional commissions.

13. The team leadership role of the regional commissions calls for their holding regular inter-agency meetings in each region with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system in that region. In this respect, the Economic and Social Council welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General to improve coordination within the United Nations system, including his proposal of yearly meetings, to be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General in each geographical area, among the relevant entities of the United Nations system engaged in regional and intercountry activities. These meetings should be cost-effective and built up on already existing coordination mechanisms and should focus on specific issues requiring coordination at the regional level. The outcome of these meetings should be reported to the Council through the respective intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions, as appropriate.

C. Role of the Economic and Social Council

14. The Economic and Social Council should encourage the regular exchange of information, as appropriate, between the bureaux of the regional commissions and its own Bureau. Whenever possible, the participation of the chairpersons of the regional commissions in the relevant deliberations of the Council should be

welcomed. The Council should also encourage the participation of the Executive Secretaries, when feasible, in its high-level debates and should further encourage inputs from the regional commissions in its substantive consideration of global issues with a regional dimension, including through the utilization of the Regional Commissions New York Office. Regular briefings of the Council by the Executive Secretaries should be organized during the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group. The Council should also encourage better two-way flow of information on activities of the regional commissions, including through simultaneous launching of the economic and social surveys, in New York and at the seats of the regional commissions.

15. The Economic and Social Council should also encourage regular interaction between the regional commissions in order for them to share each other's best practices, experiences and concrete achievements. The Council should also encourage interregional cooperation involving two or more regional commissions, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, when appropriate.

16. The Economic and Social Council should promote greater cooperation between the regional commissions and its functional commissions through regular exchange of information supported by their respective secretariats, as appropriate.

17. The Economic and Social Council should maintain its oversight and coordination role to ensure that decisions taken by the intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes are complementary and mutually supportive.

18. The Economic and Social Council should encourage the exchange of information and cooperation between the regional commissions and the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization on issues of common interest.

D. Follow-up

19. The Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 1999, in the context of his report on regional cooperation, on the progress achieved in and the impact of the implementation of the present recommendations.

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Agenda item 3 (c)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and Council resolutions 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 concerning annual reporting mandates for the operational activities segment of the Council's substantive session,

Seeking to enhance the ability of the Council to fulfil its role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Acknowledging the need for enhanced interaction between the Council and the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes,

Welcoming the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to the Council, on the invitation of their Executive Board, of a consolidated list of issues central to the improved coordination of operational activities,

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Welcoming the oral reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes during the operational activities segment of the Council on, inter alia, the Resident Coordinator System, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations Development Group,

1. Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programmes, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to conferences so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

2. Requests the Executive Boards, when considering the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis and to make appropriate proposals in line with Council resolution 1995/51;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, when drawing up his annual report for the operational activities segment requested in Council resolution 1994/33, to take account of the annual reports of the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as of the comments of the respective Executive Boards on the annual reports, and to focus the report on the themes to be agreed upon by the General Assembly in the next triennial policy review for future discussion by the Council's working-level meetings of the operational activities segment;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for submission by the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the Council at its annual substantive session of a concise consolidated list of issues which are central to the improved coordination of operational activities and on which the funds and programmes seek consideration by and guidance from the Council, particularly in regard to the triennial policy review, and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to arrange for the United Nations Development Group to explore ways and means to enhance the consultation with the specialized agencies and the Secretariat in drawing up the consolidated list, as outlined in paragraph 4 above;

6. Notes that consecutive and/or joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, bearing in mind their respective mandates, could provide a useful forum for board-level discussion of the issues arising from the reporting requirements mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4.

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Item 3 (a)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE ROLE OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING, IN PARTICULAR, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Roble Olhaye (Djibouti), on the basis of informal consultations

Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/195 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Reaffirming the importance of operational activities for development in assisting the developing countries to implement the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action,

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[1] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

Also reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take the lead in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development",[2]

Noting that coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences has become a priority of the United Nations system and that all activities related to global conference follow-up should fully integrate a gender perspective,

Emphasizing the importance of data disaggregated on the basis of sex and age for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should he based on such development plans and priorities and thus should be country-driven,

Also stressing in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

1. Welcomes the activities within the United Nations system that are aimed at implementing the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action, in particular for mainstreaming gender issues, and recognizing the need to further integrate a gender perspective, in particular into operational activities for development;

2. Also welcomes the opportunities that are presented by the reform process in the United Nations to better coordinate and mainstream gender issues as part of a strategic framework and reaffirms that an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming should be integrated into the ongoing pilot phase and review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

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[2] E/1998/54 and Corr.1.

[1] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.3), resolution 1, annex I.

3. Calls upon the United Nations system to fully incorporate a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and to continue to strengthen its capacity to support and implement world conference commitments, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

4. Also calls upon the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their poverty eradication activities, to target women and girls living in poverty and to ensure the availability of funding sources for such activities;

5. Calls upon Governments to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal rights and access to basic social services, such as education and health, as well as productive resources, training, employment, credit, microfinance and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities in order to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in all countries, and invites the international community to support national efforts in developing countries in this regard; also invites non-governmental organizations, in this regard, to integrate a gender perspective into their programmes;

6. Recognizes the need of the United Nations system to adopt a coordinated and coherent policy for gender mainstreaming, including the establishment and strengthening of the role of gender units and focal points, including guidelines and directives for mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes for achieving gender equality;

7. Reiterates that location, seniority level, resources and participation of gender units, gender advisers and focal points in all policy-making and programming processes are crucial for translating the gender mainstreaming mandate into practical reality;

8. Reaffirms that responsibility for translating gender mainstreaming into practice rests at the highest levels;

9. Urges all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to fully incorporate a gender analysis and perspective into their operational activities, with a view to achieving time-bound measurable goals, and emphasizes that this process should be guided by the need for the United Nations system to extend assistance to developing countries in meeting their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

10. Requests the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments in integrating data disaggregated by sex and age in their country programmes;

11. Emphasizes the role of the resident coordinators, within their mandate, to fully incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of operational activities for development, in consultation with the host Government, and the need to provide regular gender training for resident coordinators and their staff;

12. Recognizes the need for accountability in the operational activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities, including in the report on the triennial policy review and through the preparation of comprehensive reports on the use of resources allocated for gender mainstreaming, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the respective governing bodies;

13. Requests the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their programme of work, including in the budgeting of their respective organizations;

14. Requests the respective governing bodies to ensure the development of integrated monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming activities to facilitate an early identification of problems and to develop effective responses thereto, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to evaluate the impact of their gender mainstreaming activities, in cooperation with the national Governments concerned, and to report thereon;

15. Requests the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, within their mandates and the priorities set by their respective governing bodies, to establish internal funding targets for gender mainstreaming wherever they do not exist, and requests that, where they do exist, more determined efforts be made to reach their own targets and to report regularly to their respective governing bodies thereon;

16. Encourages the United Nations development funds and programmes, in mobilizing resources from all available sources, to provide particular attention for allocating resources to gender mainstreaming activities and capacity-building;

17. Welcomes the work that the United Nations Development Fund for Women has undertaken to support inter-agency cooperation in gender mainstreaming, as well as its efforts to assist the advancement and empowerment of women at the country level, inter alia, through placing gender advisers and gender specialists, and recommends that States and United Nations agencies consider increasing their contribution and support the work of the Fund;

18. Reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

19. Also reaffirms that in order to implement the Platform for Action adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. Welcomes the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in implementing General Assembly resolution 52/100, and, in this regard, requests the funds and programmes to submit proposals for the

implementation of paragraphs 12 and 40 of Assembly resolution 52/100 to their respective governing bodies;

21. Requests all funds, programmes and relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments, upon their request, in their national efforts to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] including on the reporting system;

22. Requests the Secretary-General, in reporting to the preparatory committee of the special session on the implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the year 2000, to include information on the progress in gender mainstreaming in operational activities and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[4] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS

Afghanistan*, Albania*, Algeria, Andorra*, Angola*, Argentina, Armenia*, Australia*, Austria*, Azerbaijan*, Bahrain*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belarus, Benin*, Bhutan*, Bolivia*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo*, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Croatia*, Cuba, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador*, Egypt*, El Salvador, Ethiopia*, Fiji*, France, Gabon, Georgia*, Germany, Greece*, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Guyana, Honduras*, Iceland, India, Indonesia*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Ireland*, Italy, Jamaica*, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan*, Kenya*, Kyrgyzstan*, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Malawi*, Malaysia*, Malta*, Mauritius, Monaco*, Mongolia*, Morocco*, Myanmar*, Nepal*, Netherlands*, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Peru*, Philippines*, Republic of Korea, Moldova*, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino*, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Solomon Islands*, South Africa*, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan*, Thailand*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan*, Uganda*, Ukraine*, United States of America, Uruguay*, Viet Nam, Yemen* and Switzerland*: draft resolution

Proclamation of an international year of mountains

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1997/45 of 22 July 1997 on the proclamation of an international year of mountains,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

98-21355 (E) 210798

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Recalling also its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in which it recognized the contribution that the celebration of international years could make to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, in which it is recognized that the proclamation of an international year of mountains would provide an impetus for achieving sustainable mountain development,[1]

Recommends that the General Assembly at its fifty-third session proclaim the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains.

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[1] E/1998/68, para. 16.

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Agenda item 9

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

China, Côte d'Ivoire*, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Iraq*, Papua New Guinea*, Sudan*, Syrian Arab Republic*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zambia: draft resolution

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/53/130.

[2] E/1998/76.

98-21361 (E) 210798

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Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other relevant resolutions and decisions, in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

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[1] E/1998/SR.__.

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating thereto,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 19 December 1997 on cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. Takes note of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and

other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. Welcomes the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

14. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. Draws the attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 1998 of the Economic and Social Council;

16. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1999;

18. Decides to keep these questions under continuous review.